

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 was pending in this application when last examined and stands rejected.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the claimed method steps as supported by the disclosure at page 3, lines 24-29, page 4, lines 7-25, page 5, lines 6-21, and original claim 2.

No new matter has been added.

II. ANTICIPATION REJECTION

In items 3-4 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Medina, Biotechnology Techniques, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 173-176 (1997).

This rejection is respectfully traversed as applied to the amended claim.

To anticipate a claim, a cited prior art reference must teach each and every element of the claimed invention. See M.P.E.P. § 2131.01.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a method for evaluating the biological activity of a specific binding substance on living cells by means of a surface plasmon resonance analyzer, which comprises: (1) immobilizing the cells on a surface plasmon resonance analyzer; (2) applying a flow of the specific binding substance; (3) continuously measuring a primary signal which appears upon application of the flow, and measuring a secondary signal after elimination of the flow; and (4) evaluating the biological activity of the specific binding substances on the cells with an indication of the secondary signal.

The amendment to claim 1 was made in accordance with the Office's suggestion/characterization of the invention on page 4, lines 4-11 of the Action. It is respectfully

submitted that the amended claimed invention is novel over the teachings in the Medina reference.

In view of the above, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Medina is untenable and should be withdrawn.

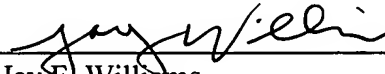
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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